

WEEKLY

industry and society

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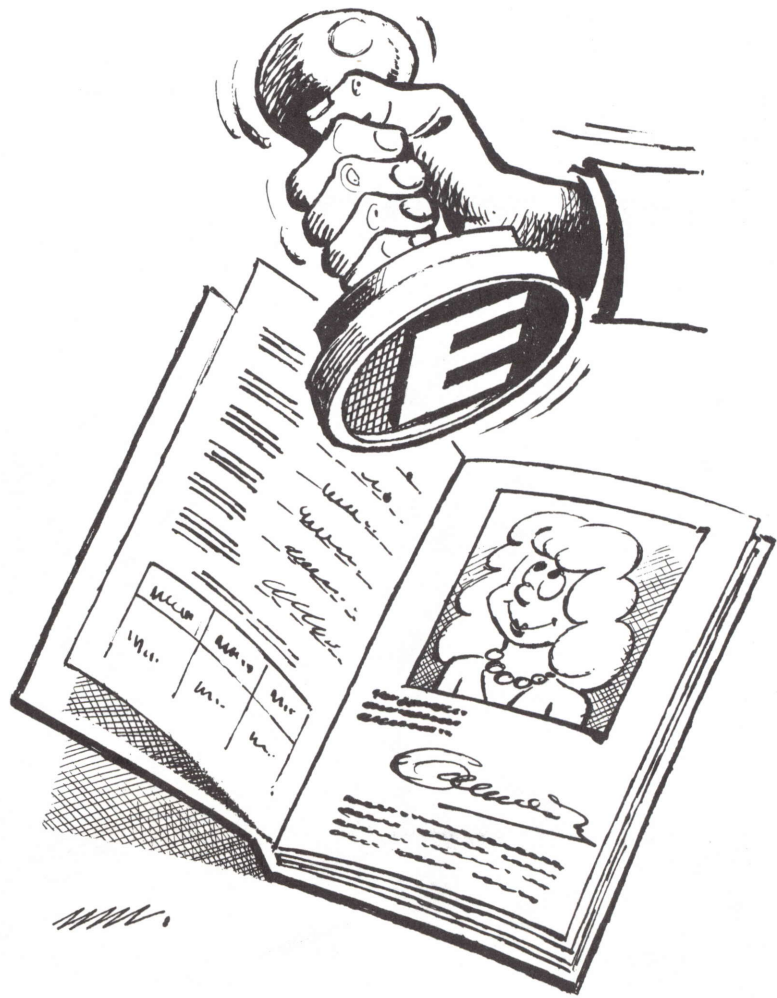
Brussels, 22 July 1975

No 29/75

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Due to the summer holiday, the next issue of Industry & Society (No 30/75) will appear on 9 September 1975.



** The Heads of State and Government of the Community countries, at a meeting of the EUROPEAN COUNCIL, have instructed the Community's Council of Ministers to accelerate work on the setting up of a PASSPORT UNION and to draw up a report on this matter, if possible, before

X/408/75-E

This bulletin is published by the

Commission of the European Communities
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Division for industrial information and consumers
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Further information is available from the Commission's press and information offices in the countries listed on the inside cover.

The information published in this bulletin covers the European Communities' activities in the fields of industrial development, protection of the environment and consumer welfare. It is therefore not limited to recording Commission decisions or opinions.

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the end of the year (see I&S No 28/75). The Community's Council of Ministers has also been instructed to study the possibility of affording special rights to citizens of the nine Member States as members of the Community and to prepare a report for a future meeting of the European Council.

The European Council further instructed the Council of Ministers to strengthen coordination between Member States' economic and financial policies. The Council recognized that the present economic problems would have to be dealt with in conjunction with the other industrialized countries (especially the United States and Japan) if there was to be an effective economic recovery. It should be noted that, for the first time, the European Trade Union Confederation met with Mr Aldo Moro, President of the European Council, and Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the European Commission. The trade union representatives stressed their concern to protect the jobs and the buying power of the workers. They asked for the early convening of a conference where governments, the Commission, the employers and workers' representatives could meet to decide on the measures to be taken to face up to the present situation.

** The RED SLUDGE incident is still vivid in many people's memories: Mediterranean fishermen protested angrily at the dramatic red hue taken on by the sea as a result of waste from a titanium dioxide plant.

ANNEX 1 explains the measures proposed by the European Commission to achieve an eventual 95% reduction of pollution.

** The European Commission has just proposed four COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROGRAMMES concerning respectively thermonuclear fusion, biology and health protection, environmental research and the establishment of a Community Bureau of Reference.

ANNEX 2 gives fuller information on two of these programmes more particularly concerned with the protection of man and his environment.

** The CONSUMERS' fight continues actively throughout Europe.

ANNEX 3 reports on the situation in Germany and Denmark.

** Collection, recycling and processing of WASTE (see I&S No 32/74) is the subject of an outline Directive recently adopted by the Community's Council of Ministers. The Directive calls on the relevant national authorities to submit three-yearly reports to the European Commission on waste processing in their respective countries.

** The trend in WAGE COSTS PER UNIT OF OUTPUT has recently been analysed by the European Commission, as is its practice every year at this time. The analysis shows that in 1974 every country of the Community experienced a faster increase in industrial wage costs per unit of gross value added than in previous years. Figures based on calculations using national currencies are as follows:

	<u>Increase in 1974</u>	<u>Increase in 1973</u>
United Kingdom	26%	7.5%
Italy	22%	12.5%
Denmark	18.5%	8.8%
Ireland	18.5%	8.9%
France	14.5%	7.6%
Belgium	13%	7.9%
Netherlands	11%	9.7%
Germany	9%	7%
United States	8.5%	3.1%

Responsible for this significant increase is the combined effect of the rise in wages and salaries and the drop in the productivity growth rate per person in employment. Salary trends are given below:

	<u>Increase in 1974</u>	<u>Increase in 1973</u>
Italy	23%	21%
United Kingdom	22%	14%
Denmark	21.5%	17.8%
France	19%	13%
Ireland	19%	16.2%
Belgium	19%	14.9%
Netherlands	15%	15%
Germany	12%	13.2%
United States	7.5%	6.5%

** Mr Scarascia Mugnozza, Vice President of the European Commission with special responsibility for CONSUMER affairs and environmental protection, attended the meeting of the European Consumers' Consultative Committee's Bureau held in Brussels on 15 July 1975. The Vice President stressed once again the importance which he and other Members of the Commission attached to maintaining a continuous dialogue with European consumer representatives. He suggested that the Committee take the initiative of establishing closer contact both with national consumer organizations and, for more specific issues, with representatives of sectors, such as banking, the retail trade and industry, with which the consumers have everyday dealings.

Mr Scarascia Mugnozza's address was followed by a lengthy debate before the Bureau made its preparations for the next full meeting of the Committee which will be held in Brussels on 13 and 14 October, and will provide an opportunity for a more detailed discussion of the suggestions put forward by Mr Scarascia Mugnozza.

- ** An increase in the share of DIESEL ENGINES in the fuel consumption of passenger cars from the present 4% to 10% in 1980 and 25% in 1985 could result in energy savings of 2.8 million toe (tonnes oil equivalent) in 1980 and 9 million toe in 1985. The European Commission is consequently studying the advantages of the diesel engine as part of its Action Programme for the Rational Use of Energy. Achievement of economies such as these will depend on the development of lighter-weight, high-performance engines which would retain the operating economies of diesel but would be more economical to produce than existing engines. The comparative advantages of different types of engine must also be examined in the light of the most economic processes for the fractional distillation of crude oil into petrol, diesel oil and other fuels. In this context the European Commission is also seeking means of improving the economy of the conventional petrol engine and investigating the possibility of developing new types of engine including those using "wide cut" fuels.
- ** The European Commission is looking into the activities of Sport TV in the light of the Treaty's rules on competition. This information was given in a reply to a written question from Mr Horst Seefeld, Member of the European Parliament. According to Mr Seefeld the Sport TV company is composed of the British ITV company, the French and Italian televisions' advertising companies, Luxembourg's RTL, the German Bayerische Werbefernseh-GmbH, and companies outside the EEC. Mr Seefeld's question raises the whole issue of television advertising, in particular during sports broadcasts. This is not a matter, however, in which the European Commission felt competent to intervene.
- ** The rational use of ENERGY IN URBAN AREAS is the subject of a congress to be held in Berlin from 20 to 22 September 1976 as one of the events of the "Deutsche Industrieausstellung 1976". The European Commission is to assist in the preparation of this congress which will discuss questions of the combined production of heat and electricity, the transmission and distribution of energy and the optimum methods of utilization.
- ** The Statistical Office of the European Communities has recently published a set of harmonized statistics on EARNINGS, WORKING HOURS and LABOUR COSTS in respect of industrial workers. The information provided enables a comparison of short-term trends in different countries to be made on the same basis. In addition, short-term trends can be related more accurately to a longer period, as the earnings statistics go back to April 1964, the working statistics to 1967 and labour cost statistics to 1966. The issue of Eurostat dealing with social statistics is obtainable from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Boite Postale 1003, Luxembourg.
- ** Seven thousand names of ORGANIC CHEMICALS have been listed together with their classification in the Common Customs Tariff. The publication of this list means that the tariff classification (heading and subheading) of chemicals in the Common Customs Tariff of the European Communities can now be immediately identified. Orders should be sent to the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Boite Postale 1003, Luxembourg.

** The International Society for Research on CIVILIZATION DISEASES and the Environment (SIRMCE) will be holding an International Congress from 9 to 14 September 1975 on: "Man's Reciprocal Relations with his Surroundings, External and Internal. From nuisances to civilization diseases". Information and enrolment forms can be obtained from the secretariat of SIRMCE, 10, rue d'Idalie, 1040 - Brussels, Belgium.

** We would draw your attention to the following items of interest published in the OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (from 25 May 1975 to 15 July 1975):

1. Social affairs

Council Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75 of 26 May 1975 on the creation of a European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (OJ No L 139, 30 May 1975);

Proposal for a Council Directive on the implementation of the principle of equality of treatment of men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training, promotion and working conditions (presented by the Commission to the Council on 12 February 1975) (OJ No C 124, 4 June 1975);

European Communities' Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers:

Decision No 99 of 13 March 1975 concerning the interpretation of Article 107(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 with regard to the obligation to recalculate current benefits;

Decision No 100 of 23 January 1975 concerning the refund of cash benefits provided by the institution of the place of stay or of residence on behalf of the competent institution and the details of refunding these benefits (OJ No C 150, 5 July 1975).

2. Approximation of legislation

Council Directive of 20 May 1975 relating to analytical, pharmaco-toxicological and clinical standards and protocols in respect of the testing of proprietary medicinal products (OJ No L 147, 9 June 1975);

Second Council Directive of 20 May 1975 relating to proprietary medicinal products (OJ No L 147, 9 June 1975);

Council Decision of 20 May 1975 setting up a pharmaceutical committee (OJ No L 147, 9 June 1975);

Council Directive of 20 May 1975 relating to the steering equipment of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (OJ No L 147, 9 June 1975);

Council Directive of 20 May 1975 relating to the suppression of radio interference produced by spark-ignition engines fitted to wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (OJ No L 147, 9 June 1975);

Council Directive of 20 May 1975 relating to the power connection fitted on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors for lighting and light-signalling devices on tools, machinery or trailers intended for agricultural or forestry use (OJ No L 147, 9 June 1975);

Council Directive of 20 May 1975 relating to aerosol dispensers (OJ No L 147, 9 June 1975);

Proposal for a Council Directive relating to headlights for motor vehicles emitting an asymmetrical passing beam or a driving beam or both, and to incandescent electric lamps for such headlights (presented by the Commission to the Council on 31 December 1974) (OJ No C 134, 16 June 1975);

Proposals for Council Directives:

- I. relating to appliances using gaseous fuels, to safety and control devices for these appliances and to methods for inspecting these appliances;
- II. relating to appliances using gaseous fuels for the instantaneous production of hot water for sanitary purposes (presented by the Commission to the Council on 31 December 1974) (OJ No C 134, 16 June 1975);

Proposal for a Council Directive relating to the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (presented by the Commission to the Council on 31 December 1974) (OJ No C 134, 16 June 1975);

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (presented by the Commission to the Council on 10 June 1975) (OJ No C 145, 28 June 1975);

Council Directive of 24 June 1975 relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (OJ No L 183, 14 July 1975);

Council Directive of 24 June 1975 relating to continuous totalizing weighing machines (OJ No L 183, 14 July 1975).

3. Environment

Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a common procedure for the preparation and constant updating of a European inventory of sources of information on the environment (presented by the Commission to the Council on 6 March 1975) (OJ No C 134, 16 June 1975);

Council Decision of 26 June 1975 adopting a programme on the management and storage of radioactive waste (OJ No 178, 9 July 1975).

AN END TO RED SLUDGE

The red sludge incident is still vivid in many people's memories: Mediterranean fishermen protested angrily at the dramatic red hue taken on by the sea as a result of waste from a titanium dioxide plant. The European Commission has now proposed to the Council of Ministers a series of measures to achieve an eventual 95% reduction in pollution.

The European Community is a large producer of titanium dioxide: 840 000 t per annum or 39% of world production (2 175 000 t per annum). Unfortunately, the Community also produces large quantities of red sludge: every day more than 8 000 t of assorted waste from titanium dioxide plants is discharged into the North Sea and the Channel. The vast majority of factories manufacturing titanium dioxide dump their waste at sea or in estuaries, relying on the buffer effect of the sea to neutralize the acid part of the waste and on the capacity of the oxygen present to convert the ferrous sulphate to ferric sulphate, the other waste (various oxides of heavy metals) sinking naturally to the sea bed.

Since the producers hope to double their capacity over the next ten years, we may well be concerned at the effect this will have on the marine environment. The EEC Commission has prepared a technical report on pollution caused by the titanium dioxide industry containing a survey of the various manufacturing processes and the waste each method produces and an examination of all the ecological aspects ranging from the physical and chemical changes in the marine environment to the biological effects of discharging red sludge. The report also considers how and at what price this waste could be converted or recycled.

The European Communities' Environmental Action Programme is based on the principle of "preventing, reducing and, as far as possible, eliminating pollution and nuisances". And this is precisely what the Commission is proposing to do about red sludge. The draft Directive submitted to the Council of Ministers proposes three measures:

- (i) prior authorization required for all dumping;
- (ii) ecological monitoring of the environment in the dumping area;
- (iii) measures to reduce the volume of waste dumped.

The first proposal is that dumping or discharging of waste into estuaries shall require prior authorization depending on the type of waste, the place of dumping or discharge and the methods employed.

This is followed by a requirement that the dumping or discharge area should be ecologically monitored with tests of a general ecological nature and tests for both induced and acute toxicity being carried out.

Lastly, it is proposed that existing plants reduce their pollution (in relation to their total untreated pollution) to 70% as from 1 January 1978, to 30% as from 1 January 1981 and to 5% as from 1 January 1985. These time limits are economically and technically realistic for firms to make the necessary adjustments.

The European Commission's proposal will now be the subject of technical discussions amongst experts from the member countries of the Community prior to approval by the Council of Ministers as a Community Directive.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH AT THE SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN

The European Commission has just proposed four multiannual research programmes concerning respectively thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics, biology and health protection, environment research and the setting up of a Community Bureau of Reference. Some 335 million units of account (1 u.a. = approximately US \$1.3) are requested by the Commission for these four programmes.

Two of the programmes are worthy of special attention since they concern the protection of man and his environment: the programme on biology and health protection and the actual environmental programme.

Biology and health protection

The biology and health protection programme is divided into two research sectors which were already included in the 1971-75 five-year plan: the study and evaluation of risks to man and the environment from ionizing radiation and the application of nuclear techniques to agricultural research. The programme is therefore of great significance for both the development of the nuclear industry in the Community's countries and for the coordination of agricultural research.

1. Radiation protection

This programme should help to find the answers to many questions:

How do radionuclides enter living organisms? What dose of radioactivity do they impart? What are the biological effects of these doses? What measures should be taken in the event of accidents? How can damage be remedied?

The radiation protection programme has been designed around these questions:

Before reaching man or the flora or fauna forming part of the environment that has to be preserved in its entirety, radioactive products follow a path passing through several levels at which concentration or dilution can occur. This path will be studied in the section on the behaviour of radionuclides, special attention being paid to elements such as plutonium, tritium, krypton and iodine.

As soon as a living organism absorbs a radionuclide or is irradiated by an external source of ionizing radiation, a dose of energy is imparted to it which has to be measured correctly in order to relate it to any subsequent effects. The objective of the section on radiation dosimetry and its interpretation is to develop correct methods of measuring radiation doses in organisms, organs or tissues.

The energy doses delivered to living beings by radioactivity have several types of effects. When the doses are sufficiently high, the effects become rapidly evident in the irradiated person. This is what happens in the event of accidents. It is then necessary to employ a whole range of treatments that remain to be optimized to make them as effective as possible. This is the aim of the short-term effects section.

The effects of irradiation may also make themselves felt long after the event has taken place. In this case they are very often hidden or weakened by other factors, making them difficult to identify. But it is still necessary to know precisely the thresholds above which serious illnesses may be caused and the mechanisms governing them. Research in the long-term effects section is designed to improve knowledge of the biological mechanisms concerned and of techniques to prevent any damage from developing.

In the section on hereditary effects it is proposed to continue the study of the implications of radioactivity for future generations, making maximum use of all data available in relation to man and carrying out laboratory experiments whose results can validly be extrapolated to human subjects.

Finally, it should be stressed that the above studies do not relate solely to radioactivity but to all health and ecological nuisances (radioactivity, chemical and thermal pollution and their interactions) that might emanate from the nuclear industry.

2. Nuclear techniques and agricultural research

Work in this field is based on the now well-established importance of radiobiology and nuclear techniques in the applied biological sciences, including agricultural and agro-ecological research. The research now proposed aims to strike the proper balance between two objectives: to increase the efficiency of food production and to offer consumers healthier products by reducing as far as possible the use of pesticides, anabolic agents, antibiotics and other products of questionable effect on human health.

In the 1976-80 programme, research will be aimed at improving the efficiency of plant and animal production by studying the physiological and genetic mechanisms governing it, and developing new methods for obtaining better-quality products. Another important aspect of this research is to find a substitute for chemical insecticides, fungicides and germicides.

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As an illustration, here are two examples chosen from the many results obtained during previous research under the biology and health protection programme:

- (i) It is known, for example, that one of the most serious effects of irradiation is to inhibit or destroy tissues producing the constituents of blood, in particular bone marrow. The logical treatment in such cases is to graft bone marrow from a healthy person onto the patient. The success of these grafts depends on a number of factors such as compatibility of donor and host, the mechanisms governing acceptance or rejection of the graft by the host, ways of improving acceptance, and prevention of secondary microbial infections that are often fatal. Research into factors of this type have helped to increase the chances of success in treating irradiated persons. The compatibility between donor and host depends on the degree of genetic similarity. A number of techniques have been developed for ascertaining this similarity quantitatively.

If circumstances prevent the optimum choice of a donor, the host develops secondary symptoms of an immunological nature as the graft reacts against the host. Lengthy research has made it possible to attenuate this dangerous immunological reaction.

- (ii) Insects harmful to agriculture are generally controlled by insecticides which, as is well known, are not always without drawbacks for the consumer. Every year the Mediterranean fruit fly causes enormous damage to orange and lemon crops in the Mediterranean countries. A new control method has been developed that can reduce the use of insecticides to a strict minimum. Previously irradiated insects which cannot produce viable offspring when they mated are released into the orchards. After some time, the population of harmful insects is thus reduced to a level at which the damage caused becomes negligible. This method reduces the use of insecticides and is entirely selective since it affects only the insect concerned. Research on the Mediterranean fruit fly has culminated in a pilot trial on the island of Procida near Naples. It was so successful that it is now possible to move on to large-scale application in the citrus-producing regions.

Research into environmental questions

The main aim of the European Commission's proposed research in this sphere is to acquire the necessary scientific and technical knowhow to carry out the European Communities' environmental action programme. It is divided into four sectors:

1. research to establish criteria (the relation between exposure and effect) for pollutants and potentially toxic chemical products;

2. research and development on the management of environmental information, in particular on those chemicals capable of contaminating the environment (ECDIN project);
3. research and development on the reduction and prevention of pollution and nuisance, including the use of clean technologies;
4. research and development on the protection and improvement of the natural environment.

This necessary research can be carried out more effectively and at less cost if the relevant European laboratories work in close cooperation. This allows coordinated projects to be elaborated at Community level, thus avoiding both useless duplications and gaps in the work, makes it possible to call upon groups of highly specialized laboratories to tackle a particularly difficult problem collectively and facilitates carrying out epidemiological-type surveys involving extremely large numbers of people exposed to very varied environmental conditions. It is intended that the non-member countries who have in the past taken part in COST projects (European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research) also be invited to participate in the proposed research programmes.

We can already draw attention to some of the results of past and current research as examples of coordinated programmes at Community level:

- (i) an epidemiological survey is in hand on the effects of atmospheric pollution on respiratory diseases; it covers some 20 000 children throughout the Community and should produce vital results for establishing air quality standards;
- (ii) a data-bank pilot project for chemicals capable of contaminating the environment (ECDIN project) is assembling data on the production, use, physical and chemical properties, toxicity, the environmental path, the ecological effects, etc. of several thousand synthetic chemical compounds; once these data have been fed into the computer, it should be possible to meet rapidly and effectively the information requirements of the environmental management authorities and of the chemical industry;
- (iii) one group of laboratories is developing systems for the remote detection of atmospheric pollution using laser beams and other optical methods; they are to hold a field campaign during July to compare the performance of various devices;
- (iv) several institutes in Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg are cooperating in a detail study of river pollution in the Lorraine-Luxembourg-Saarland area to assist in defining quality objectives for these waters.

THE CONSUMER FRONT IN GERMANY AND DENMARK

The editor of TEST magazine tells us of the latest developments in the fight for consumers' rights in Germany:

General conditions of sale

The approval by the Federal Cabinet of a draft law governing general conditions of sale represents a further necessary step towards reorganization of this essential law. The main concern is to put a legal end to the partiality of the terms of contracts - what is normally called the "small print" - by making them more favourable to the consumer. Up to now, most conditions of sale have been based on the principle of maximum rights for the seller and a minimum for the buyer. It now remains to hope that these reforms in general conditions of sale will pass through the Bundestag and become law during the present session.

Consumer consultation

A shining example of the modern approach to consumer advisory services is the opening in Bonn by the consumers' study group of a new advice centre. Besides providing the public with advisory services for general consumer problems on household, food, budget, housing and tenancy questions, the Bonn centre is envisaged as a pilot scheme to experiment new theories and new working methods. For example, the range of advice is to be widened to include meetings held in large firms, at potential hot spots on the social front or in suburban areas.

Misleading publicity for detergents

As a result of a request made to the courts by the association for the protection of consumers from unfair competition, a large detergent manufacturer (Henkel, Düsseldorf) has been forbidden to use the expression "kochrein" (as clean as if it had been boiled) in its advertisements for a detergent which can be used only at temperatures up to 60°C.

A new form of real estate

At the instigation of the German tenants' association, the Federal Parliament has adopted a law to encourage owner-occupied housing and the purchase by occupiers of state-subsidized housing. The essential element in this law is the possibility afforded to occupiers to become the owners of state-subsidized housing which represents an intermediate stage between rented accommodation and full ownership and which is a new concept in Germany. Anyone entitled to subsidized housing can, by contributing to a special property fund, acquire a permanent right to occupy the premises, entered in the land register, and at the same time become a co-proprietor of the entire building in respect of the financing. This should

enable people with modest incomes to form capital in property. The advantages of this new form of housing are that the prospective owner pays only a relatively small amount each month and can also make more savings because he is entitled to tax relief.

Bank guarantees on deposits

As a reaction to the collapse of various private financial institutes, the banks have finally decided to set up a system of guarantees for deposits which will result in almost complete coverage of the "ordinary" customer's savings in the case of a firm's going bankrupt. The system of bank guarantees on deposits means that the financial establishment concerned gives a total guarantee up to 30% of its own capital. In practice, this means that deposits will normally be guaranteed for at least one million DM. However, since the banks are by no means obliged to adopt this guarantee system, the consumers' study group is demanding that it be made compulsory at least for all banks to display a notice above their counters informing their savings customers whether or not they subscribe to the system and stating the maximum amount of deposits covered by the guarantee.

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The "Forbrugerrådet" (consumer council) gives us news of the latest developments on the consumer front in Denmark:

An ombudsman for consumers

Judge Niels Ehrenreich, ombudsman, has just been appointed for Danish consumers to ensure that the retailing laws are being put into practice. He took up his appointment on 1 May 1975 and is already examining a whole series of cases on misleading advertising, unfair contracts, etc. His address is as follows: Store Kongensgade 47, 1264 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

Complaints bureau for consumers

A bureau has also opened up in Denmark to deal with complaints from consumers about purchases of goods or services. The idea of the bureau is to deal with complaints with more speed and less cost than if the consumer had had to take court action. Because of lack of funds and a shortage of staff, the bureau has been obliged to restrict its field of activity but it is thought that, in the longer term, it will deal with all types of action concerning goods and services.

Mr Hugo Wendler Pedersen, a doctor of law from the Ministry of Justice, has just been appointed head of the bureau. The bureau opened on 1 June 1975 at the same address as the consumers' ombudsman.

Report on the legal situation and protection of consumers

One of the tasks of the consumer committee, set up in 1969 by the Ministry of Trade, is to study the various sections of the law dealing with consumer problems. It has just produced a report on the legal situation and protection of consumers. The committee's report represents a series of proposals to improve the consumer's situation before the law especially with regard to the laws on purchases and contracts.

Consumer-Insurance Arbitration Office

The Danish Consumers' Council has just signed an agreement with the Association of Insurance Companies to set up an arbitration office. Mr Henrik Urune, a High Court judge, has been appointed to head the office. The address chosen by the secretariat of the office is that of Mr Jørgen Gawinetski, lawyer, Frederiksgade 14, 1265 Copenhagen K, Denmark. The office will open on 1 September 1975.